

Passed the House, April 29, 1949: Yeas 103, Nays 2, 2 present not voting; passed the Senate, May 12, 1949: Yeas 30, Nays 0.
Approved May 21, 1949.
Effective May 21, 1949.

CITIES AND TOWNS—ANNEXATION OF LANDS

CHAPTER 243⁵⁴

H. B. No. 168

An Act providing procedure for the annexation, by certain cities and towns, with the consent of the owners, of land or territory, to the extent of one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) mile in width, which is vacant and without residents, or on which less than three (3) qualified voters reside, contiguous and adjacent to any incorporated city or town having a population of five thousand (5,000) or less inhabitants, according to the last preceding Federal Census; providing that this Act shall be cumulative of other laws on the subject of annexation of territory by cities and towns; and declaring an emergency.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

Section 1. The owner or owners of any land or territory, to the extent of one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) mile in width, which is vacant and without residents, or on which less than three (3) qualified voters reside, contiguous and adjacent to any incorporated city or town within this State having a population of five thousand (5,000) or less inhabitants, according to the last preceding Federal Census, may by petition in writing to the governing body of such city or town request the annexation of such contiguous and adjacent land and territory, describing the same by metes and bounds, said petition to be duly acknowledged as required for deeds by each and every person or corporation having an interest in said land. The governing body of such city or town shall thereafter, and not less than five (5) and not more than thirty (30) days after the filing of such petition, hear such petition and the arguments for and against the same, and grant or refuse such petition as such governing body may see fit. If such governing body shall grant such petition, the said governing body by proper ordinance may receive and annex such territory as a part of such city or town. Thereafter the territory so received and annexed shall become a part of such city or town, and the said land and any future inhabitants thereof shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of other citizens of such city or town, and shall be bound by the acts and ordinances of such city or town. If such petition shall be granted and the ordinance hereinabove mentioned adopted by such governing body, a certified copy of such ordinance together with a copy or a duplicate of such petition shall be filed in the office of the County Clerk of the County in which such city or town is situated.

Sec. 2. The provisions of this Act shall be cumulative of all other laws on the subject of annexation of land or territory by incorporated cities and towns in the State.

Sec. 3. The fact that the present laws make no provision for the annexation of land or territory, by the cities and towns mentioned in this Act, which is unoccupied or which is occupied by less than three qualified voters where the owners request such annexation, the importance of this Act and the crowded condition of the Calendar create an emergency and imperative public necessity that the Constitutional Rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each House be and the same is hereby

⁵⁴ Vernon's Ann.Civ.St. art. 974g.

suspended, and this Act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed the House, April 12, 1949: Yeas 126, Nays 0; passed the Senate, May 12, 1949: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Approved May 21, 1949.

Effective May 21, 1949.

JUDGES OF COUNTY COURT AT LAW—COUNTIES OF NOT LESS THAN 250,000—COMPENSATION

CHAPTER 244⁵⁵

H. B. No. 292

An Act fixing the compensation of the Judges of County Court at Law and providing for the payment thereof in counties having a population of not less than two hundred and twenty-five thousand (225,000) inhabitants according to the last preceding Federal Census and having only one County Court at Law; repealing all laws and parts of laws in conflict herewith to the extent of such conflict; defining County Court at Law; providing a saving clause; and declaring an emergency.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

Section 1. In all counties in this State having a population of not less than two hundred and twenty-five thousand (225,000) inhabitants according to the last preceding Federal Census and having within said county only one County Court at Law the salary of the Judge of said County Court at Law shall be Seven Thousand, Four Hundred Dollars (\$7,400) per annum. Said salary shall be paid out of the County General Fund in twelve (12) equal monthly installments. The Commissioners Court of the county out of whose funds said salary is paid may, if it so elects, order such payments to be made out of the Jury Fund.

Sec. 2. The term "County Court at Law" as used in this Act shall mean and include County Courts at Law having jurisdiction over civil cases only or criminal cases only or both civil and criminal cases.

Sec. 3. If any section, sentence, clause, phrase or part of this Act be held for any reason to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the remainder of this Act.

Sec. 4. All laws or parts of laws fixing the salaries of Judges of County Courts at Law in any county having not less than two hundred and twenty-five thousand (225,000) population and having within said county only one County Court at Law as herein defined to the extent that they conflict with this Act are hereby repealed, but to the extent of the conflict only; it being intended that, and this Act shall control as to the amount of the salary in such counties over any classification by population of such counties heretofore made.

Sec. 5. The crowded condition of the Calendar, the fact that living costs have rapidly increased in the larger counties, and the further fact that such judges have not been granted increase in compensation commensurate with increased living costs, create an emergency and an imperative public necessity requiring that the Constitutional Rule requiring that bills be read on each of three several days in each House be suspended, and said Rule is hereby suspended and this Act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed the House, April 12, 1949: Yeas 126, Nays 0; passed the Senate, April 28, 1949: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved May 21, 1949.

Effective May 21, 1949.

⁵⁵ Vernon's Ann.Civ.St. art. 1970—236.